

Lynch, Edward

From: Kirsten Theodos <kirsten@takebacknyc.nyc>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 1:29 PM
To: Maisel, Alan; Cohen, Andrew; King, Andrew; Palma, Annabel; Reynoso, Antonio; Kallos, Ben; Lander, CM; Menchaca, Carlos; Deutsch, Chaim; Johnson, Christine; Constantinides, Costa; Dromm, Daniel; Garodnick, Daniel; Mealy, Darlene; Greenfield, David; Rose, Deborah; Richards, Donovan; Crowley, Elizabeth; Ulrich, Eric; Cabrera, Fernando; Rosenthal, Helen; Miller, I. Daneek; Barron, Inez; Dickens, Inez; Vacca, James; Van Bramer, James; Ferreras, Julissa; Williams, Jumaane; Koslowitz, Karen; Cumbo, Laurie; Chin, Margaret; Arroyo, Maria del Carmen; Levine, Mark; Treyger, Mark; Weprin, Mark; Eugene, Mathieu; Mark-Viverito, Melissa; Vallone, Paul; Koo, Peter; Espinal, Rafael; Torres, Ritchie; Cornegy, Robert; Lancman, Rory; Mendez, Rosie; W, Ruben; Levin, Stephen; Matteo, Steven; Gibson, Vanessa; Gentile, Vincent; Ignizio, Vincent; Rodriguez, Ydanis; webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov; outreach@pubadvocate.nyc.gov
Subject: Bronx leads all boroughs in court evictions of businesses, up 30%
Attachments: BronxForumOpenLetter final-1.pdf



Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

October 22, 2015

Contact person: Kirsten Theodos

Kirsten@takebacknyc.nyc

From Manhattan with NO LOVE

Manhattan rents spreading throughout the Bronx, destroying the American Dream

In 2014, Bronx leads all boroughs in court evictions of businesses, up 30%

Community Forum Panel recommends a real solution to Save Bronx Small Businesses

Dateline: NYC Oct. 22, 2015

For over three decades in Manhattan, exorbitant rent increases demanded when leases expire have forced long established businesses to close. Banks and Franchises paying obscene rents for prime spaces along with unchecked speculation, landlords purposely leaving storefronts empty for years, flipping commercial buildings and just pure greed has wreaked havoc upon the commercial free market. The life span of a new business opening anywhere in Manhattan is measured in months, not years or decades. Even banks and franchises are being forced to close because they can no longer afford the crazy rents they helped create.

For years, mostly immigrant small business owners escaped this greed by moving to the Bronx to keep their American Dream alive. The unchecked speculation has followed them and now all Bronx small businesses are at risk of being forced to close when their leases expire.

Recently a community forum was held in the Bronx with one goal: to find a real Solution to Save Bronx Small Businesses. It was an honest debate with no organizations being funded by government or input from agencies ruled by property owners and banks. The outcome and recommendation of this Forum was given in an Open Letter sent to all Bronx elected officials (see attached).

Bronx business owners wanted elected officials to be aware that sky high rents was not the only reason forcing them to close and plunging their profits. They need a real solution to help them survive. But three other major problems also needed to be addressed. Many business owners, mostly non-English speaking immigrants have been routinely extorted for cash "under the table" by unscrupulous landlords as a condition for a lease renewal.

The second problem is the short leases (sometimes month to month or one year) given to even those in business for decades. It is great for the landlord who is waiting for a deep pocket franchise to take over or a buyer for his property, but terrible for the business owner who has no future with these short leases. The last problem is the exclusive right of landlords to pass on any of their own costs for their tenants to pay. Knowing these other problems made the choice for the best solution to save Bronx Small Businesses an easy one: **The Small Business Jobs Survival Act (Intro 402)**

To date, other proposals being considered would keep the status quo and change nothing. In fact, one proposal suggesting moving as a solution, would actually make the crisis worse. Only the SBJSA is a real solution that addresses all four of the major problems facing Bronx Small Businesses.

Kirsten Theodos
TakeBackNYC
www.takebacknyc.nyc

Lynch, Edward

From: Small Business Congress <savenycjobs@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 8:00 PM
To: Maisel, Alan; Cohen, Andrew; King, Andrew; Palma, Annabel; Reynoso, Antonio; Kallos, Ben; Lander, CM; Menchaca, Carlos; Deutsch, Chaim; Johnson, Christine; Constantinides, Costa; Dromm, Daniel; Garodnick, Daniel; Mealy, Darlene; Greenfield, David; Rose, Deborah; Richards, Donovan; Crowley, Elizabeth; Ulrich, Eric; Cabrera, Fernando; Rosenthal, Helen; Miller, I. Daneek; Barron, Inez; Dickens, Inez; Vacca, James; Van Bramer, James; Ferreras, Julissa; Williams, Jumaane; Koslowitz, Karen; Cumbo, Laurie; Chin, Margaret; Arroyo, Maria del Carmen; Levine, Mark; Treyger, Mark; Weprin, Mark; Eugene, Mathieu; Mark-Viverito, Melissa; Vallone, Paul; Koo, Peter; Espinal, Rafael; Torres, Ritchie; Cornegy, Robert; Lancman, Rory; Mendez, Rosie; W, Ruben; Levin, Stephen; Matteo, Steven; Gibson, Vanessa; Gentile, Vincent; Ignizio, Vincent; Rodriguez, Ydanis
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Kirsten Theodos
TakeBackNYC
www.takebacknyc.nyc

Lynch, Edward

From: Kirsten Theodos <kirsten@takebacknyc.nyc>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 9:21 AM
To: Maisel, Alan; Cohen, Andrew; King, Andrew; Palma, Annabel; Reynoso, Antonio; Kallos, Ben; Lander, CM; Menchaca, Carlos; Deutsch, Chaim; Johnson, Christine; Constantinides, Costa; Dromm, Daniel; Garodnick, Daniel; Mealy, Darlene; Greenfield, David; Rose, Deborah; Richards, Donovan; Crowley, Elizabeth; Ulrich, Eric; Cabrera, Fernando; Rosenthal, Helen; Miller, I. Daneek; Barron, Inez; Dickens, Inez; Vacca, James; Van Bramer, James; Ferreras, Julissa; Williams, Jumaane; Koslowitz, Karen; Cumbo, Laurie; Chin, Margaret; Arroyo, Maria del Carmen; Levine, Mark; Treyger, Mark; Weprin, Mark; Eugene, Mathieu; Mark-Viverito, Melissa; Vallone, Paul; Koo, Peter; Espinal, Rafael; Torres, Ritchie; Cornegy, Robert; Lancman, Rory; Mendez, Rosie; W, Ruben; Levin, Stephen; Matteo, Steven; Gibson, Vanessa; Gentile, Vincent; Ignizio, Vincent; Rodriguez, Ydanis; outreach@pubadvocate.nyc.gov
Subject: The SMALL BUSINESS JOBS SURVIVAL ACT has hit a MAJORITY!!!



Media Advisory
For Immediate Release
October 27, 2015

Contact: Kirsten Theodos
TakeBackNYC
kirsten@takebacknyc.nyc

The SMALL BUSINESS JOBS SURVIVAL ACT has hit a MAJORITY!!!

**Majority see SBJSA as the best solution to save our
small businesses and end Crisis**

Dateline, New York City, October 27th, 2015 As of today, the **SMALL BUSINESS JOBS SURVIVAL ACT**, a historic bill currently in the NYC Council that would give rights to all commercial tenants to negotiate fair lease terms when their leases expire, has hit a majority with 26 NYC Council Members signed on.

What this means is that if the bill were to come for a vote today on the NYC Council floor, it would easily pass and within 180 days, every small business in NYC would finally have the basic protections any residential tenant already has. However, the fight is far from over. In order for the **SBJSA** to come to

the floor for a vote, the Chairman of the Committee on Small Business, Council Member Robert Cornegy, must allow the **SBJSA** to have a Public Hearing. This is an opportunity for all sides to have their voices heard. Our city's small business owners face a crisis to survive and are entitled to an honest debate. And yet, Chairman Cornegy remains silent.

The real estate lobby wants to keep the status quo which has reaped huge windfall profits over the past decades. The only way to stop the **SBJSA** is to give the media, public and legislators misinformation such as the **SBJSA** is commercial rent control and the bill has legal issues. This inane rhetoric is a weak attempt to spin the **SBJSA** in a controversial light. The **SBJSA** is not commercial rent control. The city's small business owners do not want Commercial Rent Control, they want to keep government out of the decision making process and on the sidelines during the lease renewal negotiation process. Under the **SBJSA**, the only voices to be heard in the bargaining process would be between the tenant and landlord, and from a mediator if they fail to mutually agree on terms of the new lease. If the mediation process fails to achieve a mutual agreement between the parties, then an arbitrator would be included. No government formulas are ever involved.

The **SBJSA** is simply a legal mechanism that would allow existing commercial tenants to negotiate the renewal of their lease on equal terms as the landlord. The **SBJSA** does not dictate terms of new leases nor does it dictate terms of the market. The bill calls for Arbitration if the parties can't agree to new terms. Arbitration is the most commonly used practice to resolve disputes by big government, corporations, unions, sports, and individuals contracts like cell phones.

The unsubstantiated accusations that the **SBJSA** has legal problems, was disproved decades ago when the legal scrutiny of the bill was upheld time and again. This false claim was proven as nothing but a bogus "legal roadblock" with no legal merit.

Small businesses in NYC are in a crisis. This crisis is being borne by existing and successful small businesses who live under the sword of being forced out of their business by exorbitant rent hikes, landlord's passing on tax burdens, cruel short leases and under the table cash extortion. The **SBJSA** puts an end to all of these hardships and ensures that the backbone of the NYC local economy is given a fair chance to continue their success by allowing them fair and just lease terms.

The majority of NYC Council Members agree that this crisis has gone on long enough and it's time to say no to greed, real estate speculation, the destruction of our local neighborhood economies and preserve the character of our great City.

Small businesses are the backbone of our city's economy and the primary job creators. The **SMALL BUSINESS JOBS SURVIVAL ACT** will end economic inequality and give businesses rights to survive - let's not waste any more time chasing phantasms with talk of 'commercial rent control', it's time to talk about the real issue: Why is giving small business owners basic rights and a measure of respect, appreciation and dignity so hard for the remaining Council Members to support? It's time for the public to weigh in, it's time for facts not fiction, and it's long past time to pass the **SMALL BUSINESS JOBS SURVIVAL ACT** and TakeBackNYC.

***TakeBackNYC is a direct action political lobbying organization representing a coalition of small business owners, residents, and advocacy groups formed with one goal, and one goal only: Empower and protect the rights of NYC small business owners. www.takebacknyc.nyc

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Kirsten Theodos
TakeBackNYC
www.takebacknyc.nyc

Lynch, Edward

From: Council Member Corey Johnson <district3=council.nyc.gov@mail192.suw16.rsgsv.net>
on behalf of Council Member Corey Johnson <district3@council.nyc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 7:05 AM
To: Zepeda, Lillian
Subject: A Personal Message from Council Member Corey Johnson

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
COREY JOHNSON
3RD COUNCIL DISTRICT, MANHATTAN



Dear Friends,

Two years ago, when I took the oath of office as your Council Member, I was sworn in with a mandate and a mission: to fight for the residents of District 3, to protect and preserve the things that make our neighborhoods special, and to address the inequality that is plaguing our City.

As we turn the page to 2016, I want to give you some highlights from the past year. My office served 1,538 constituents, packed and delivered 1,516 food bags and facilitated 253 legal consultations at our monthly clinic. This year seven of my bills were passed by the City Council and signed into law, making a difference on issues like affordable housing, criminal justice, animal welfare and pedestrian safety.

It is an honor to serve as your Council Member. I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyous New Year.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CJ' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Corey Johnson

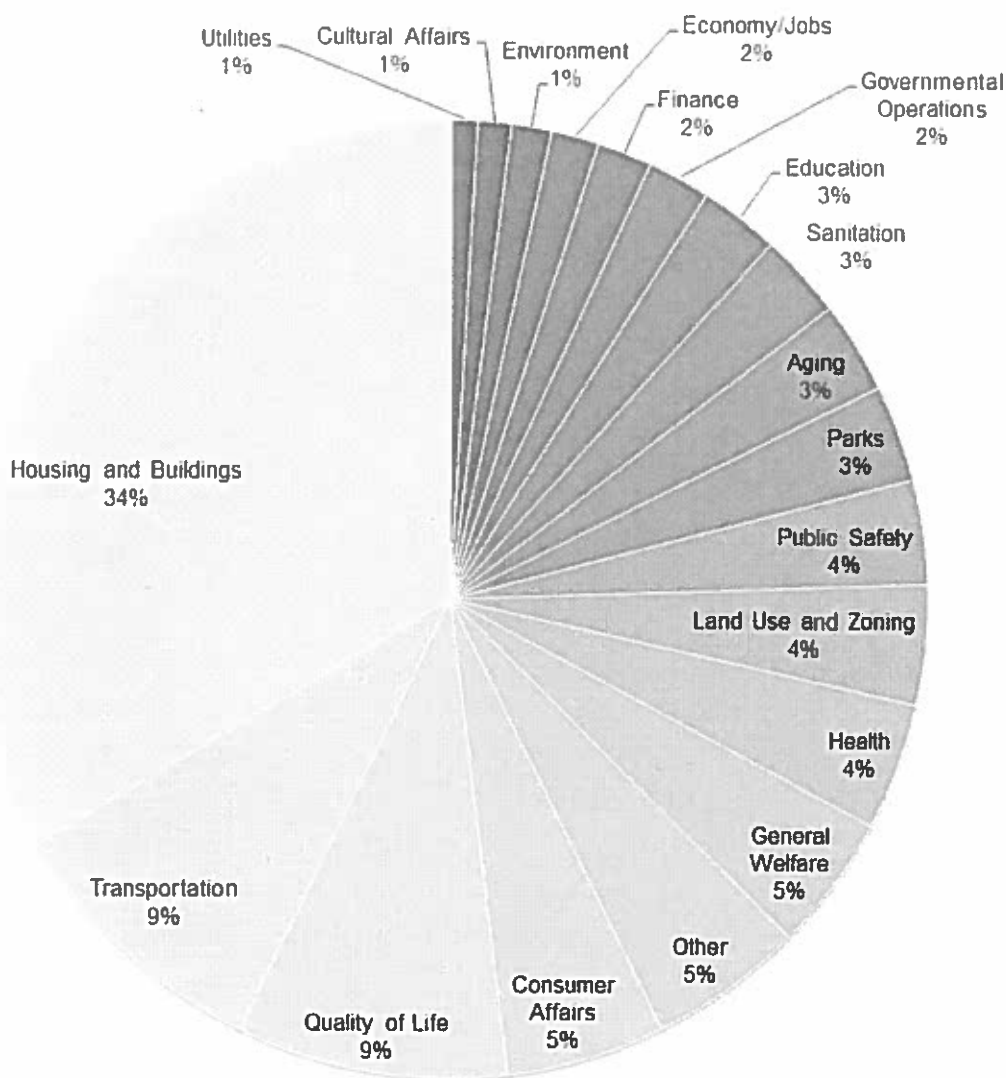
Council Member, 3rd Council District

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Constituent Services



Constituent Cases by Issue Area – January 2014 to December 2015

In 2015 my office helped 1,538 constituents, connecting residents to important City services. Every connection we established has made a difference in the lives of these New Yorkers.

A few examples of what we've done include preventing the eviction of a Manhattan Plaza resident who was wrongly denied a lease renewal. Our intervention helped the tenant avoid a lengthy and prohibitively expensive legal battle, and the resident is now securely housed. On another occasion, my staff helped a senior citizen obtain a new electric wheelchair when she had difficulty navigating our complicated health care

system.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call my district office at (212) 564-7757 or email us at district3@council.nyc.gov.

Office Initiatives

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL **PARTICIPATORY** BUDGETING

In 2015 my office premiered Participatory Budgeting, a new democratic process that lets YOU decide how to spend over \$1 million dollars of our City's capital budget to improve our community. Last spring, thousands of residents came out to vote for a number of amazing projects, which then got funded in the FY2016 budget:

Council Member Corey Johnson (District 3)**\$1,680,000****Winning Projects to be Funded in FY2016 Capital Budget**

8. New Park for the Community	\$200,000
9. Revitalization of Chelsea Waterside Park	\$85,000
2. Renovations for Jefferson Market Library	\$500,000
4. Bathroom Renovations at Lab School*	\$560,000
17. Sidewalk Repair/Replacement	\$50,000
6. PS3 Library Renovations	\$35,000
15. Pedestrian Safety: Raised Crosswalks	\$250,000

***The School Construction Authority agreed to fund this project.**

Community members are currently developing new ideas into proposals, and this spring, another vote will take place. [Click here to learn more and get involved!](#)

West Side Summit



On May 9, community members from across District 3 convened for my inaugural West Side Summit. Attendees identified issues facing our neighborhoods and proposed solutions. The winning projects of Participatory Budgeting were announced, and I delivered a State of the District address. We also enjoyed a keynote speech from Margaret Newman, Executive Director of the Municipal Arts Society of New York.

Let's Talk! Reforming the Rent Guidelines Board



My “Let’s Talk!” series continued in 2015. In March we were joined by a panel of housing policy experts and tenant organizers for a community forum about proposed reforms to the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB). The RGB is the nine-member panel that determines annually how much landlords can set future rents for 2.5 million rent-stabilized tenants. In June, for the first time in its history, the RGB voted for a rent freeze, a big victory for tenants.

Free Monthly Legal Housing Clinic



COUNCIL MEMBER
COREY JOHNSON
SRD DISTRICT MANHATTAN
District 10 - Lower East Side



FREE HOUSING CLINIC SERVICE

HOUSING ATTORNEYS
WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SITE.

5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.
224 WEST 30TH STREET, SUITE 1206

NEW YORK, NY 10011
This service will be offered on the second Tuesday of every month. Individuals will be seen on a first come first serve basis.

If you have any questions please call (212) 554-7727

My office helps constituents around my district with a wide range of issues. However, housing related matters account for an outstanding number of these cases. **We offer housing clinics at my district office (224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206) on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30-7:30 pm.** At these clinics, attendees can receive free legal advice from housing attorneys who volunteer their time.

I'm proud to report that we hosted 253 consultations at our monthly clinics in 2015!

Fresh Food for Seniors Program



In 2015, I again partnered with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer to offer our Fresh Food for Seniors program. We packed and delivered 1,516 food bags to District 3 residents: a 251 percent increase over 2014!

[Click here for more information, or to sign up to participate in 2016.](#)

Rat Academy

* Do you see rats in and around your building or neighborhood?

* Do you want to learn about safe and effective methods for rat prevention?



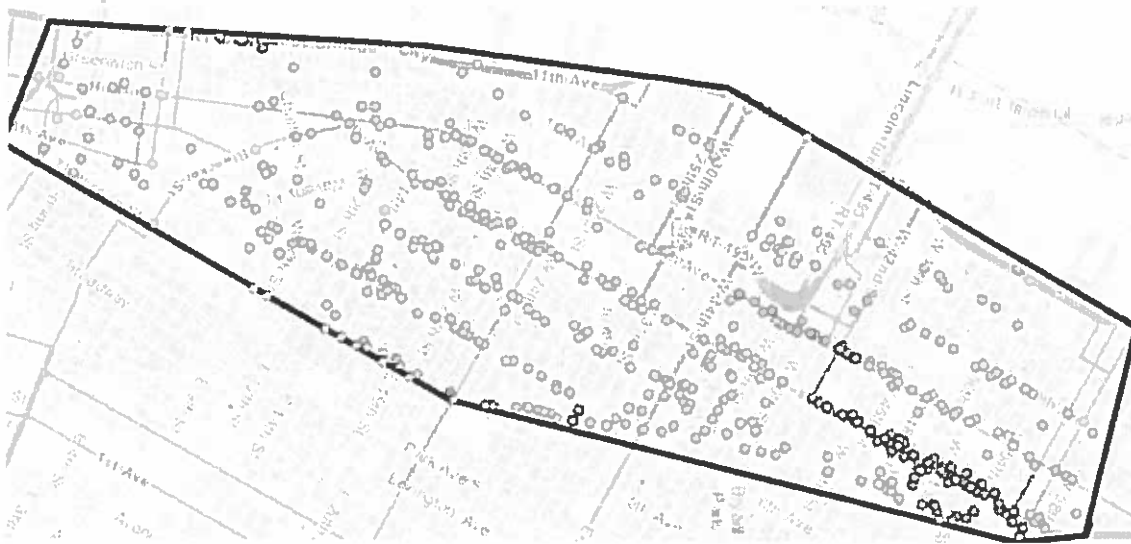
RAT ACADEMY

In July, I hosted a 'Rat Academy' with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Local business owners, building superintendents and residents came out to learn safe and effective methods to prevent rat infestation. To learn how you can help keep our neighborhoods rodent-free, visit the City's "Rat Information Portal" at www.nyc.gov/rats. To view a NY1 piece on our Rat Academy, [click here](#).

Annual Shred Day

Properly disposing of documents containing personal or sensitive information can be difficult if one doesn't have access to a shredder. In June, my office hosted our annual Shred Day in partnership with Comptroller Scott M. Stringer and the AARP. Hundreds of residents turned out to take advantage of this opportunity to safely dispose of personal documents.

District 3 Mapping Report: An Analysis of Public Spaces



This spring I released a report that detailed important street features in Council District 3. My staff and interns canvassed the district and mapped the locations of trash cans, public phones, bike racks, empty tree pits, trees and news boxes. This information is crucial as we work with government agencies to make sure our streets are clean and accommodating.

[You can read our report by clicking here.](#)

[Click here](#) to read a *Chelsea Now* article about this initiative.

Legislation

In 2015, I passed 7 bills and introduced an additional 17 pieces of legislation. A common theme among them is the goal of addressing inequality in our City and meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Below is a recap of these bills.

Passed Legislation



Intro 0658-2015: Extending Rent Regulation in New York City

Every three years, New York City must declare a housing shortage emergency which allows our rent stabilization laws to be extended. I was proud to be the prime sponsor of this legislation in 2015.

Intro 0440-2015: Increasing Health Care Transparency at Rikers Island

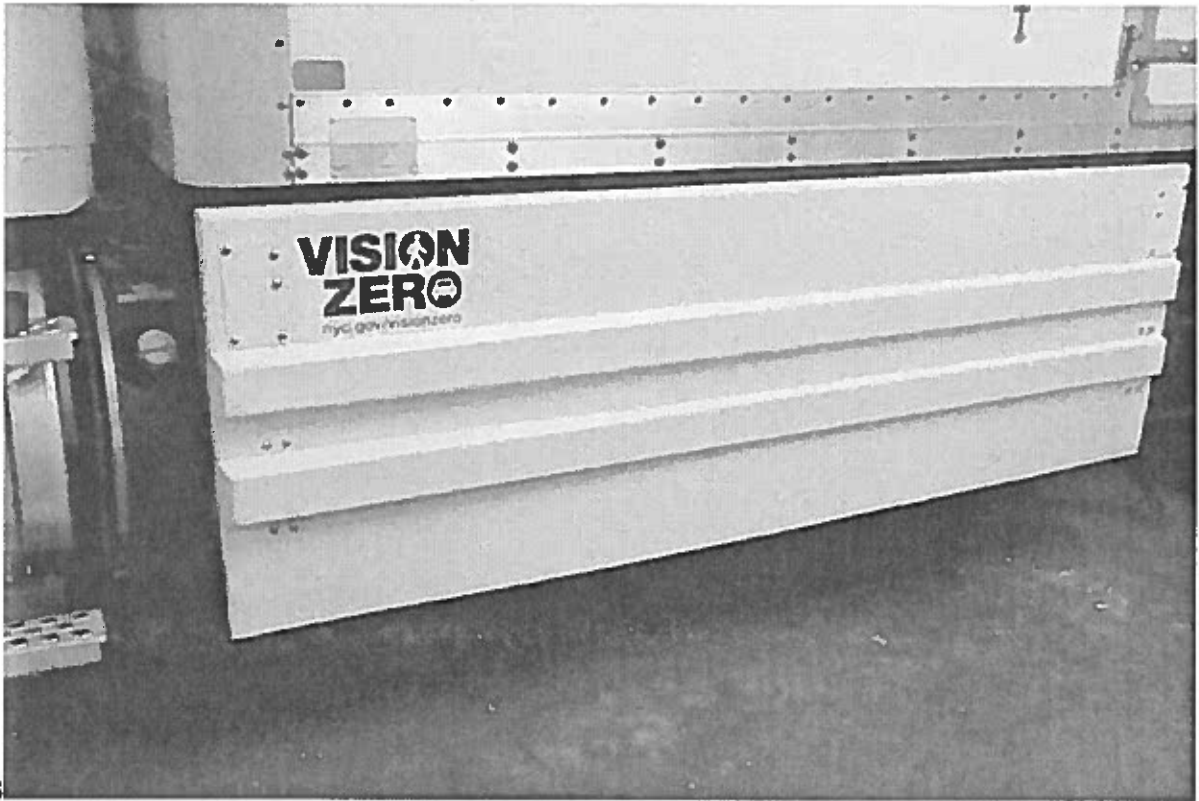


*Photo by Seth
Wenig*

Our City has failed to provide adequate health care services to inmates at Rikers Island. My legislation, signed into law in June, will improve transparency by requiring the Department of Health to issue quarterly reports on health services in jails, holding the providers and the agencies that oversee them accountable in key performance areas.

Intro 0772-2015: Mandating Sideguards on the City's Largest, Most

Dangerous



Vehicles

In New York City, collisions with trucks account for 12.3 percent of pedestrian fatalities and 32 percent of bicyclist fatalities, many of which could have been prevented with lifesaving devices called sideguards. This spring, I passed legislation that will require the installation of sideguards on all heavy-duty trucks in the City's fleet.

Intro 0592-2015: Protecting Hotel Jobs

Our hotels serve as a bedrock component of our economy, providing many jobs to hardworking New Yorkers. Many of these jobs are already being lost because of the rapid conversion of hotel rooms into luxury condominiums. That is why the Mayor signed my legislation that temporarily puts a limit on the number of condo conversions that hotel owners can make, and requires regular reports to inform City government as to the larger trend of hotel conversions.

Intro 0145-2015: Requiring Fire Sprinklers at Facilities that House Animals



Photo credit: Gary Listort

When establishments contain unattended animals that are locked in cages, we must ensure that fundamental safeguards are in place. My legislation requires pet stores and other establishments that house animals to install fire sprinkler systems or have 24 hour supervision.

Intro 0730-2015: Enhancing the School Safety Act

The 'school to prison pipeline' is exacerbated by excessive school suspensions and other disciplinary measures. Along with Council Member Vanessa Gibson, I drafted legislation to address this issue by requiring reports on key statistics like suspensions, use of restraints, number of metal detectors, students referred to emergency medical services, and complaints made against school safety agents.

Intro 0712-2015: Air Quality Surveys

We must ensure that the air we breathe does not pose a risk to our health. In October, the City Council passed legislation of mine that requires the City to conduct regular air quality surveys that identify the major local and regional sources of air pollution.

Introduced Legislation

Intro 0973-2015: Comprehensive Community Health Planning

I have introduced legislation that would create a new Office of Comprehensive Community Health Planning. It's time that our government intelligently plans for health services in all communities, in all neighborhoods of our City – including the Lower West Side!

Intro 0684-2015: HASA for All



Currently, HIV/AIDS Services Administration benefits are only available to persons with AIDS or two HIV-related opportunistic infections. That is why I authored “HASA for All” legislation that would expand lifesaving subsistence benefits to all low-income HIV positive New Yorkers in need. This law would save countless lives and put us on track to meet Governor Cuomo’s plan of ending HIV in New York State by 2020.

Intro 0713-2015: Operating Plans for Sight-Seeing Buses

Sight-seeing buses have long caused significant disturbances for the residents of my district. I introduced legislation that would require sight-seeing bus operators to submit operating plans to the Department of Consumer Affairs and forward them to the Department of Transportation, local community boards and Council Members during the licensing review process.

Intro 0731-2015: Barring Discrimination Against Affordable Housing Tenants



Many New Yorkers were shocked to learn that it is perfectly legal for a developer to hoist a sign saying that rent-stabilized tenants are not welcome to enter a gym, pool or green space in their own building. I introduced legislation that would bar building managers from discriminating against tenants in affordable housing units from using building amenities.

Intro 0711-2015: Transparency in Government – Including Citizen Feedback in the Mayor’s Management Report

This bill would ensure more transparency and accountability when it comes to government services by requiring that citizen satisfaction survey responses be included in the Mayor’s Management Report.

Intro 0749-2015: 100% Accessible Taxis

Our taxi fleet, including those operated by taxi-app companies, ought to be 100% accessible. In order to bring our City in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I introduced legislation that would require all for-hire vehicles to be wheelchair accessible. This bill would make a huge difference in the everyday lives of seniors and those with temporary injuries or life-long disabilities.

Intro 0748-2015: Creating an Office of Drug Strategy

It is time for New York City to be a national leader in drug policy. That’s why I introduced a bill that would create an Office of Drug Strategy, which would coordinate across agencies and create an annual plan for drug policy, to be refined each year. [Click here](#) to read an article by the Drug Policy Alliance about my proposal.

Resolution 0690-2015: Updating the Mansion Tax

This resolution calls on the State to update the Mansion Tax by increasing the threshold to \$1.75 million. After all, this tax is meant to apply to “luxury properties,” not the average New York City apartment.

Intro 0902-2015: Providing Life Saving Equipment for Our Public Facilities

Studies have determined that a person’s best chance of surviving cardiac arrest is to be defibrillated within six minutes. I introduced legislation with Council Member Steve Matteo that will require life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at ball fields. [Click here to view a NY1 report about our efforts.](#)

Intro 1013-2015 and 1014-2015: Combating Recidivism

If we are serious about improving our criminal justice system, we must make every effort to reduce recidivism, which refers to a formerly incarcerated person’s relapse into criminal behavior. I introduced a bill in the Council that would require the City to address the needs of recently released individuals through programs that address mental health, drug abuse, homelessness and more.

Intro 0771-2015: Ensuring Quality Health Services in Our Schools



For our public school system to thrive, we must make sure that our kids are receiving the in-school health services they need. A bill I introduced in April will address this issue head-on by requiring the Department of Education to report on student health services to the Council, including data on nurses, school based health centers, common student illness, and health screenings.

Intro 0854-2015: Requiring City-Owned Buildings to Go Green

New York City must be a leader on combating climate change and carbon emissions. I introduced a bill that will profoundly assist in this effort, as it would require all city-owned buildings to be powered by renewable energy sources by the year 2050.

Intro 0929-2015: Reporting on Homeless Health Services

We need to ensure that individuals housed in our homeless shelters are receiving the medical attention that they need. That is why I introduced this bill, which requires regular annual reporting on health services provided to individuals and families in the shelter system.

Intro 0838-2015: Supporting Urban Agriculture

This legislation would create an Urban Agriculture Advisory Board which would be tasked with finding potential sites for urban agriculture, fostering training programs, and identifying impediments to urban agriculture around the City.

2016 Budget: A Win for District



3

A budget is more than just numbers - it is a reflection of our values. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget was a big win for New Yorkers, as it includes funding for more school crossing guards to keep our kids safe, free meals for our schoolchildren, expanded public library service and much more.

This budget is also a big win for the residents of District 3. In addition to allocating expense funding to nearly 100 local non-profits, I am proud to have funded some fantastic capital projects, including:

Parks

- \$775,000 for new equipment and renovations at the Downing Street Playground

- \$1,000,000 for a new park for the community at 20th Street
- \$55,000 for improvements and ADA accessibility upgrades at the Jane Street Garden
- \$170,000 for the upkeep of Chelsea Waterside Park Playground
- \$50,000 for the Leroy Street Dog Run
- \$65,000 for the Pier 84 Dog Run
- \$85,000 for a children's interactive garden at Chelsea Waterside Park

Schools

- \$135,000 for library and bathroom renovations at P.S. 3
- \$40,000 for a playground safety surface at P.S. 212
- \$35,000 for a technology upgrade at the James Baldwin School
- \$35,000 for a technology upgrade at Quest to Learn middle school

Sanitation & Conservation

- \$105,000 for new Community Composting Centers across the district

The Arts

- \$26,000 for an office equipment upgrade at HERE Arts Center
- \$250,000 for needed renovations at Playwrights Horizons

Transportation

- \$250,000 to improve pedestrian safety by installing speed tables at various crosswalks
- \$50,000 for sidewalk repair/replacement at 26th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues

Seniors

- \$700,000 to renovate the Neighborhood Senior Center at Hudson Guild

People with Disabilities

- \$550,000 for an HVAC expansion and electrical upgrades at Fountain House, a non-profit dedicated to the recovery of men and women with mental illness

[Click here to read a *Chelsea Now* article about the 2016 budget.](#)

Health Committee



It has been said that a person's zip code is a better predictor of health than his or her genetic code. This is unacceptable. As Chair of the Council's Committee on Health, I believe it is the responsibility of government to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to affordable, quality and culturally competent health care. This year the Council tackled this and many other issues.

In 2015 the Health Committee held 18 hearings on topics ranging from synthetic

marijuana to Legionnaires' Disease to our public hospital system's budget deficit. We undertook a five borough outreach campaign to raise awareness about the Affordable Care Act open enrollment period. We examined the delivery of health care at Rikers Island, the need for animal shelters in all five boroughs, safety in youth sports, and more.

Council Allocates \$6.6 Million for Plan to End AIDS



I was proud to announce alongside Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito that the Council has allocated \$6.6 million for an initiative that will help New York achieve its goal of ending HIV by 2020. This initiative will directly support several recommendations of the statewide Ending the Epidemic blueprint including a citywide PrEP access network, making New York City one of the national leaders in funding PrEP to help combat new infections.

Addressing Legionnaires' Disease

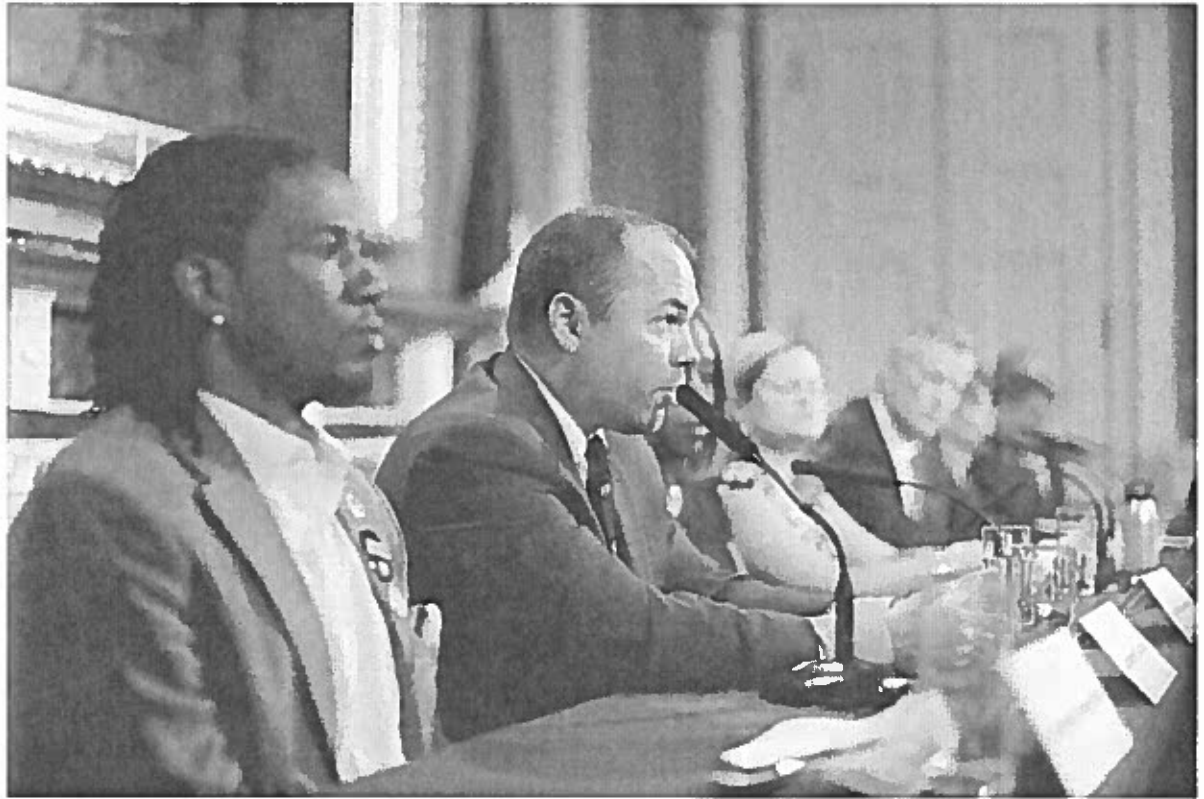


Photo by William Alatrisme

In August, the City Council took decisive action and passed legislation that will help prevent future cases of Legionnaires' Disease in New York City. The new law requires that all cooling towers be regularly inspected and registered with the Department of Buildings. [Click here](#) to read a *Newsweek* article about this legislation.

Comprehensive Annual Report on Hepatitis B and C

Hepatitis B and C have long affected the most vulnerable New Yorkers, particularly in communities without adequate medical care. That is why I sponsored Council Member Margaret Chin's legislation that requires the Health Department to report on key statistics regarding new cases of Hepatitis B and C and the populations they affect.

Cracking Down on the K2 Pipeline

The use of synthetic drugs, often referred to as K2, is a growing and very troubling problem in our City. This law will help end the flow of K2 to our streets by placing tough penalties on those who manufacture and sell this harmful drug. [Click here](#) to read more about this legislation.

Victory! City Reverses Decision to Privatize Dialysis Services



We achieved a big victory in May when the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) terminated its agreement with Big Apple Dialysis, a for-profit company that was contracted to replace dialysis services currently provided by HHC. After relentless advocacy over the past year, patients and science won the day. HHC is the greatest public hospital system in the world, and outsourcing its dialysis services would not have been in the best interest of patients.

City Ends Corizon Contract: A Breakthrough for Health Care at Rikers Island

In June the de Blasio administration announced that it will not renew its contract with Corizon, a private company with a disturbing record of poor health services at Rikers Island. The Council's Committee on Health worked hard to uncover the true state of health care at Rikers Island, culminating with the passage of my legislation that will increase transparency on the state of health care in our correctional facilities.

Op-Ed: Governor Chris Christie Makes New Jerseyans Ill

On June 16, *The Observer* published my op-ed highlighting New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's opposition to paid sick days. Falling ill shouldn't mean getting fired, no matter what side of the Hudson you live on. If we can make paid sick days a reality here in New York City, there is no good reason our neighbors a mile away cannot do so as well. [Click here to read the op-ed.](#)

Victory! Au Bon Pain Revises Hospital Menu

This spring I wrote to HHC, expressing my concern about the calorie count and sodium levels in the food served at Au Bon Pain locations in City hospitals, which include Elmhurst Hospital, Coney Island Hospital, Bellevue and Jacobi Medical Center. I was extremely pleased that this fall, Au Bon Pain launched a new, healthier menu that complies with the City's "Healthy Hospital Food Initiative."



On the eve of World AIDS Day, I was joined by the amazing Whoopi Goldberg and George Takei, New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and my colleagues in the NYC Council LGBT Caucus as we lit the Empire State Building's spire in red to mark this important occasion. Photo by William Alatraste.



On October 28, I was thrilled to host 97 community members at my district office for our annual Flu Shot Day. Dr. Mary Bassett, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene stopped by and administered my flu shot.

Issues

Parks

Successful cities provide their residents with access to open space, greenery, light and

air, places for human interaction and community building. In this year's budget, I allocated over \$2.2 million towards capital improvements to parks, playgrounds and dog runs across the district for renovations and critical safety upgrades.

A New Park for Chelsea



In November, after years of effort, we announced fully funded plans to transform a vacant, city-owned garage and parking lot into a new 10,000 square foot park on West 20th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. This park will serve a Community District with a low Open Space Ratio and few parks within walking proximity. In terms of open space, Community Board 4 ranks last in Manhattan and 58th out of 59 community boards citywide.

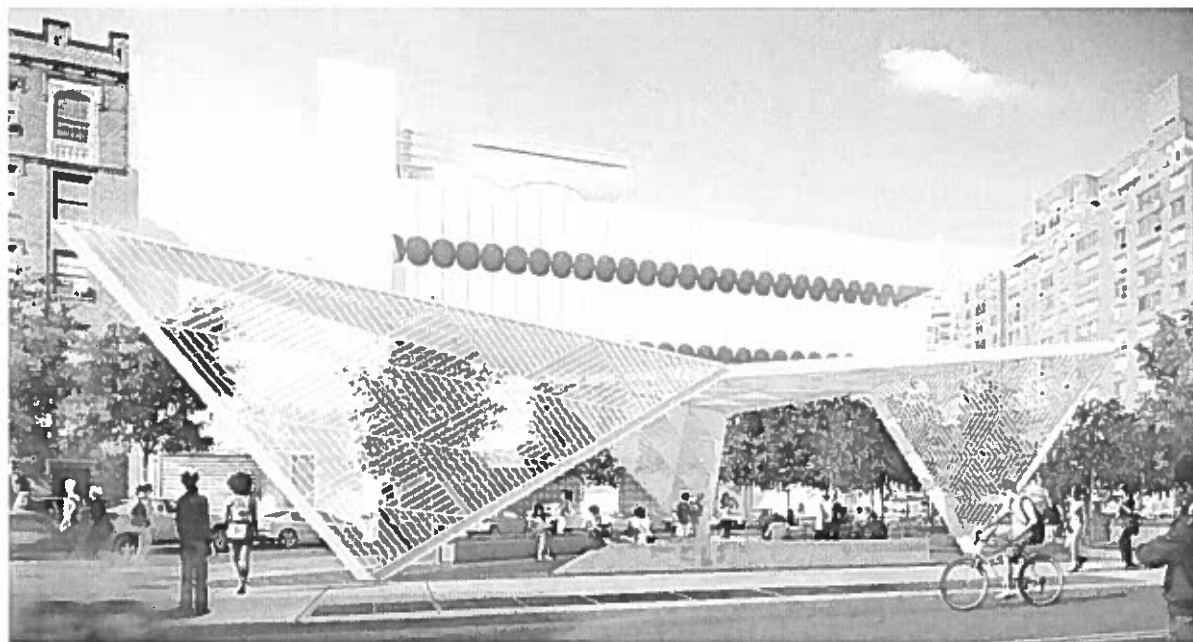
[Click here to read a Chelsea Now article about about this announcement.](#)

Speaking Out Against Megatowers Along Central Park

Nobody goes to Central Park to sit in the shadow of a tall building. Yet every day, we see the construction of enormous towers along Central Park South that will literally cast a shadow over one of the greatest parks in the world.

I joined with fellow elected officials to urge the Department of City Planning to implement policies that will put a stop to these megatowers, and heed Community Board Five's recommendations. [You can read about our efforts here.](#)

New York City AIDS Memorial

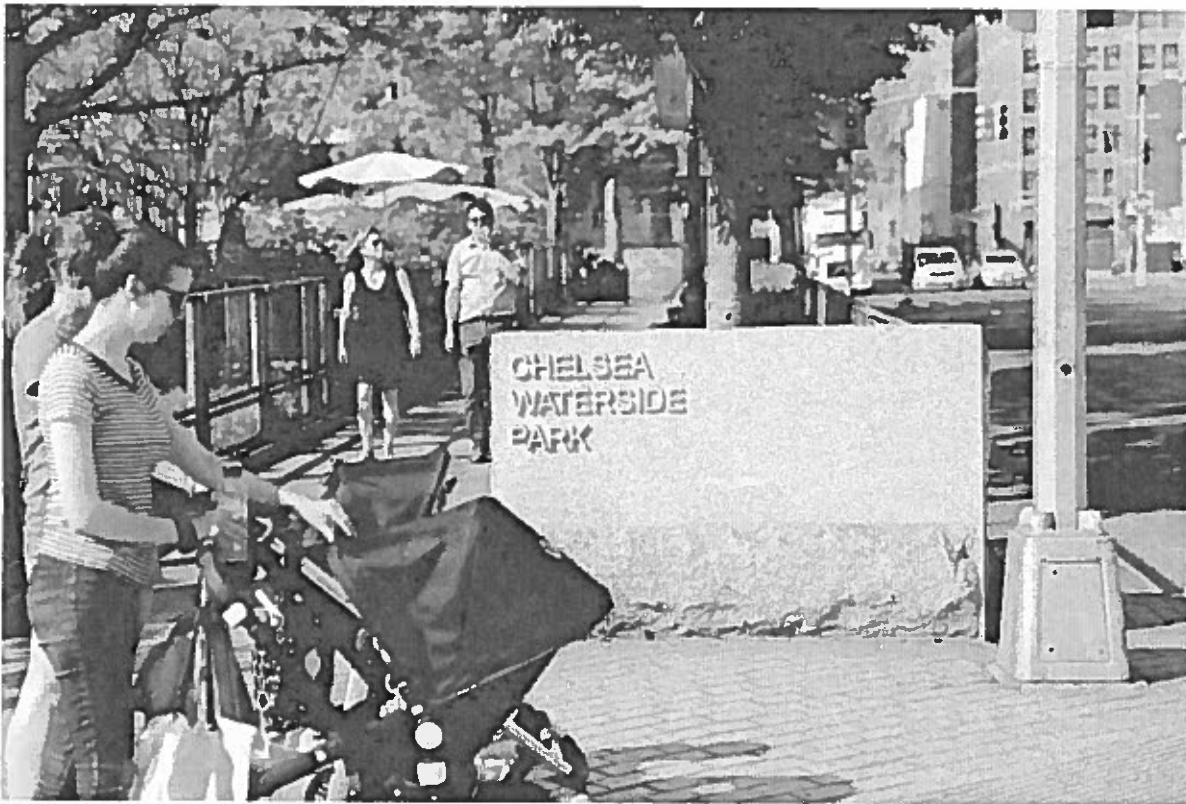


I am proud to have allocated \$500,000 towards the construction of the New York City AIDS Memorial, which will be completed this spring at St. Vincent's Triangle. At this memorial, New Yorkers and people from around the world will have a place to pause and remember all of those who were so tragically taken from us far too soon. It will also

be a place of learning for future generations who hopefully will be living in a world without AIDS.



Signing documents with Borough President Gale Brewer creating a new park at St. Vincent's Triangle.



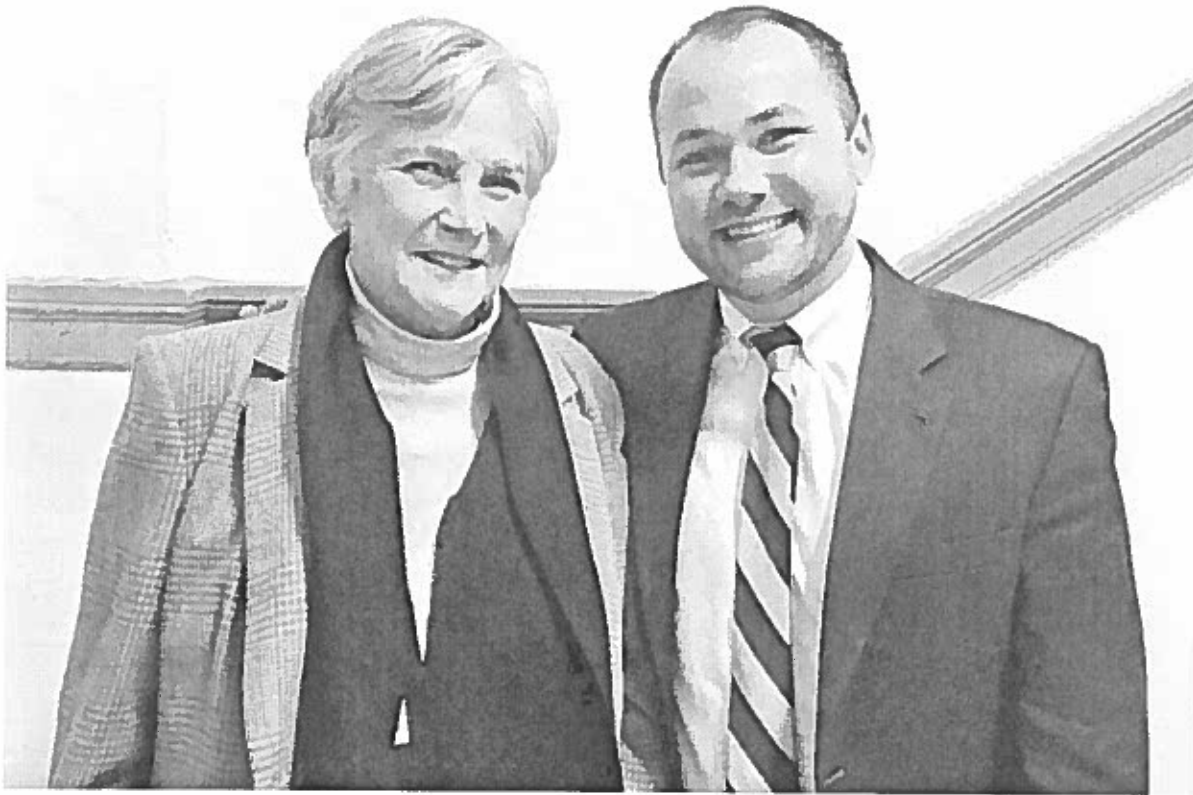
I am proud to play a role in the revitalization of Chelsea Waterside Park. This park was a winner during Participatory Budgeting, with \$85,000 in City capital funds allocated for a new children's interactive garden. I additionally funded \$170,000 for the upkeep of the playground, and last year I allocated \$100,000 for renovations to the basketball court. Photo by William Alatraste

Schools and Libraries

One of a Council Member's main responsibilities is to ensure that the City is adequately addressing the capital needs of our schools. This year my staff and I toured local schools, documented areas in need of repair and worked with School Construction Authority President & CEO Lorraine Grillo to ensure that the needed repairs were prioritized.

My capital allocations to schools in the district include bathroom and library renovations at PS 3, technology upgrades at Quest to Learn and a new playground safety surface at PS 212.

In addition to my education bills outlined earlier, I spoke out on issues such as excessive testing, reducing class sizes, the importance of sex education, and addressing bullying in our schools.



On January 21, I was proud to speak alongside Dr. Diane Ravitch to the PS3 Parent Action Committee about our test-obsessed system and the need to put the focus back on learning in our schools.



Every February, the Department of Education holds "Respect for All Week" to highlight and build upon diversity programs and curriculum-based instruction. I engaged in meaningful conversations with fourth graders at PS 3 and PS 33.



The Jefferson

Market Library currently lacks public restrooms and enhanced ADA accessibility. As a Participatory Budgeting winner, it received \$500,000 in capital funds to build ADA accessible bathrooms and renovate the lobby. Photo by William Alatrisme

Affordable Housing

If New York is going to retain its middle and working class, we must build and preserve affordable housing. In District 3, there are nearly 1,000 new units of affordable housing scheduled to be built in the coming years. But we'll need more if we want to maintain true economic diversity.

New Affordable Housing at Former Slaughterhouse Site



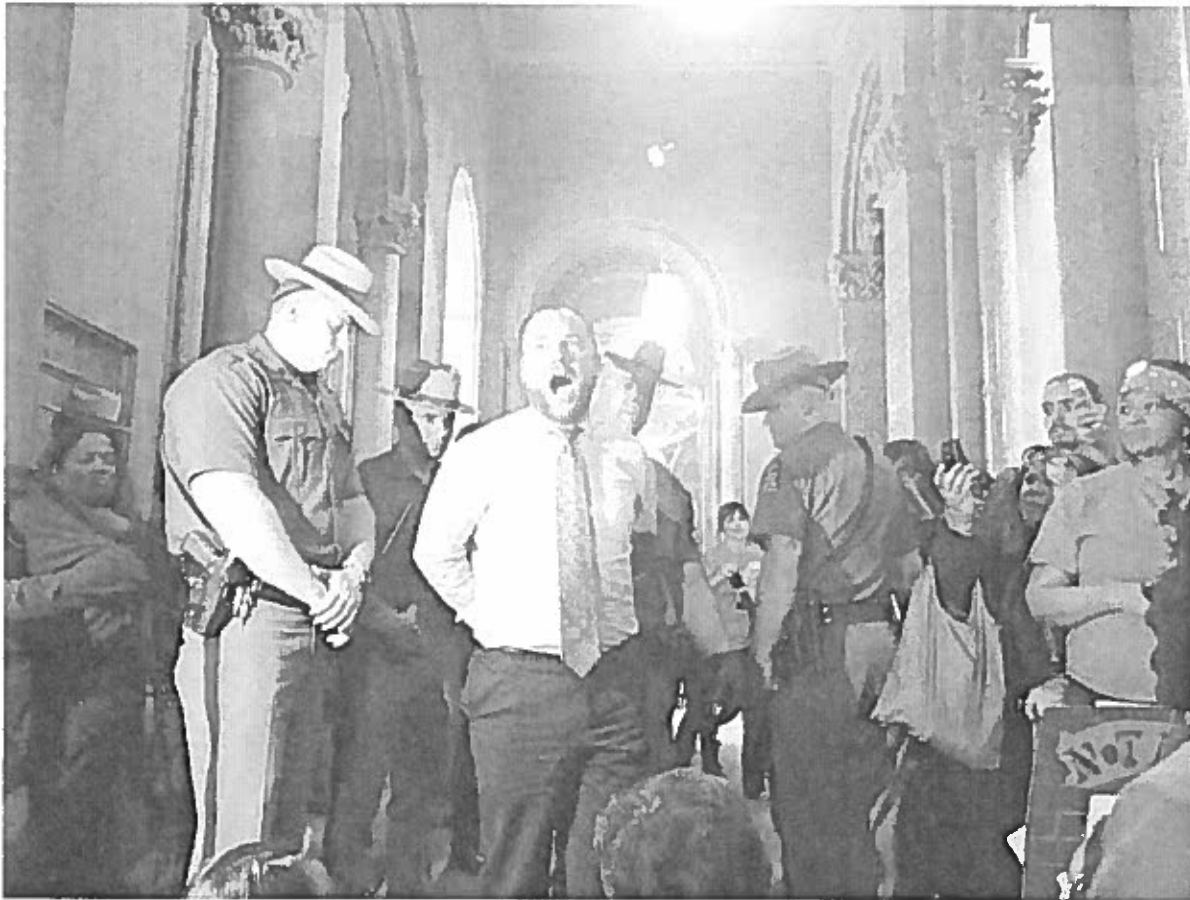
Photo by Rosa
Goldensohn

In August I was proud to announce that after months of discussions with my office, my colleagues in government and Community Board 4, the City released a Request for Proposals seeking a mixed-use development – with a goal of 100% affordable housing – at the Slaughterhouse site at 495 Eleventh Avenue.

This is a great achievement for the West Side, as it will provide hundreds of families with affordable, high quality housing in the heart of Hudson Yards. We must use every tool at our disposal to keep the West Side affordable for working and middle class New Yorkers, and projects like this are key to helping us meet that challenge.

You can read a *DNAinfo* article about this development by [clicking here](#).

Fighting for Stronger Rent Regulations



During the last days of the State legislative session in June, 55 New Yorkers – including myself and several of my colleagues in government – were arrested in the State Capitol in an act of civil disobedience, demanding that our legislature strengthen laws that protect rent-regulated tenants.

I was proud to be the prime sponsor of legislation that declared a housing emergency in New York City, enabling rent regulations to be extended for another four years.

Victory! The Rent Guidelines Board Votes for Rent Freeze



The voices

of 2.5 million tenants were heard in June when the Rent Guidelines Board voted for a rent freeze for the first time in its history. For too long, rent-stabilized tenants have been asked to pay more and more, while landlords rake in record profits, and this vote was a first step in righting that wrong. I was proud to be part of the coalition that held meetings, rallies and marches to make this a reality.

Illegal Hotels

In 2015, it became clear to more and more New Yorkers that illegal hotels are fundamentally threatening our affordable housing stock and putting lives at risk. A fire broke out at an illegal hotel in my district at 412 West 46th Street, damaging the structure and forcing the relocation of families. Illegal hotel operators continue to make money hand-over-fist while their tenants go to sleep every night without basic fire safety protection. At City Hall, hundreds of New Yorkers attended our hearings

about this issue - a reflection of the anxiety that people are feeling across the City.

Affordable Housing Symposium at Hudson Guild

In May, I moderated a roundtable discussion on affordable housing at the Hudson Guild. We heard from a panel of distinguished housing experts, each of whom brought a different perspective to the table. I thank the Hudson Guild and the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development for gathering us together.

Reforming the Department of Buildings



In September, I stood with my colleagues and hundreds of New Yorkers on the steps of City Hall to unveil a package of legislation that would address the harassment of tenants by unscrupulous landlords.

The bills, 12 in total, would push the Department of Buildings (DOB) to be more proactive in protecting tenants during building construction and renovations. A bill I co-sponsored with Helen Rosenthal takes aim at landlords who falsely claim that their buildings are unoccupied, by requiring the DOB to review these claims in certain cases, rather than simply accepting the landlord's word.

Preserving Affordability at Penn South

Penn South is integral to New York City's affordable housing stock. It's also the country's first-ever Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, providing stable and supportive housing for thousands of fixed-income seniors.

On April 16, the New York City Council passed a resolution that grants up to 50 years of real property tax exemption to Penn South, which will provide ongoing affordable and high quality housing to the 2,820 middle-income families at Penn South through the year 2030. My thanks go to Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Dick Gottfried for passing State legislation that made this possible.

Transportation

Welcoming the 7 Train to Hudson Yards!



Photo

by William Alatrisme

On September 13, the West Side's first new subway station in a generation opened at Hudson Yards. New York has drastically underfunded its public transportation for decades, but in this case the City of New York stepped up to the plate, allocating over one billion dollars to make this project a reality. This is a tremendous commitment that will benefit future generations of New Yorkers.

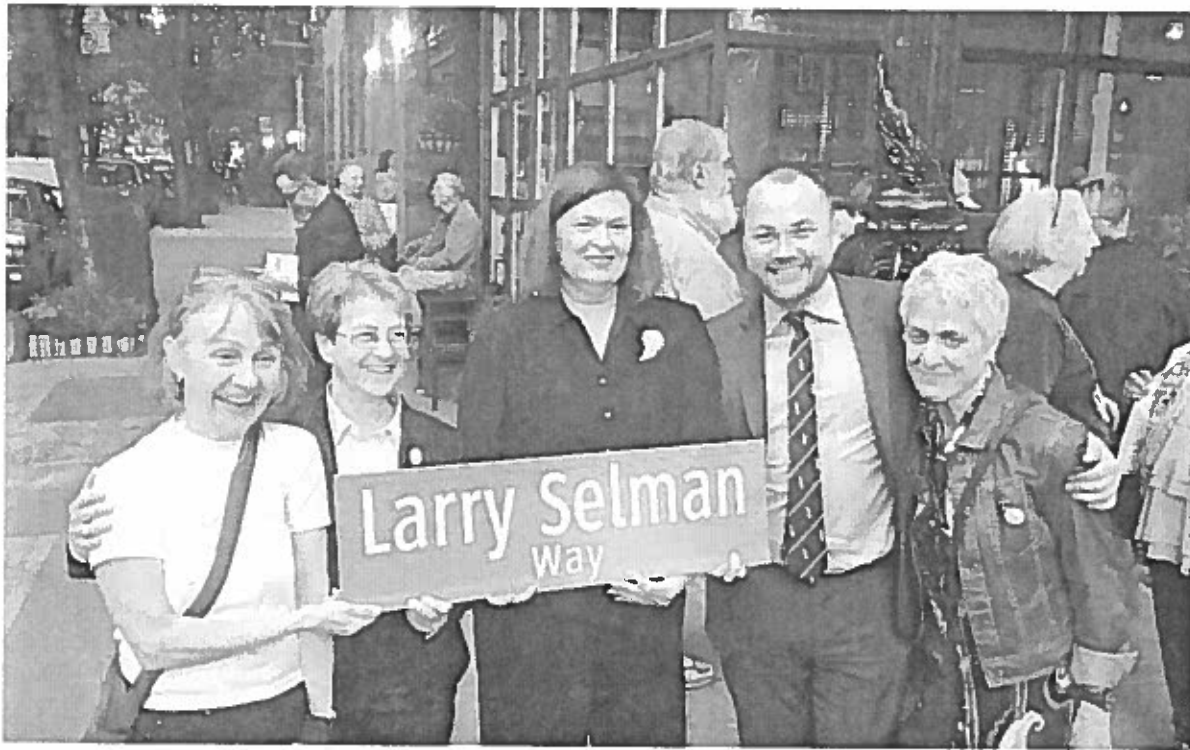
Protected Bike Lanes on Sixth Avenue



I'm pleased that the DOT is moving forward with a bike lane on Sixth Avenue between 14th and 34th Streets, which will create safer streets and bring order to a thoroughfare that is currently too dangerous. I am also grateful to the DOT for committing to extending this improvement on Sixth Avenue below 14th Street.

Street Co-Namings

On July 18, I was honored to dedicate 25th Street and Ninth Avenue in memory of legendary Chelsea resident Phyllis Gonzalez. Phyllis was a longtime housing advocate and tenant leader, exemplifying what it means to serve one's community. While Chelsea will miss her voice, her name will live on at Phyllis Gonzalez Way for generations to come.



On October 6, I was joined by Assembly Member Deborah Glick and the Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association as we co-named the corner of Bedford Street and Grove Street in honor of Larry Selman. Larry was a ubiquitous presence on the block, overcoming an intellectual disability to collect thousands of dollars for charity while living at the poverty line. He was considered the neighborhood's unofficial mayor and reached out to others with an open, kind-hearted personality.

Pedestrian Safety Improvements in the Village

This year, the DOT made some headway in addressing pedestrian safety needs in the district. In the West Village, Seventh Avenue saw pedestrian safety improvements, a welcome change given that one intersection alone had 26 injuries recorded from 2009-2013. The DOT also worked extensively with Community Board 2 and residents to address long-standing safety concerns at dangerous intersections on West 8th Street, including new painted sidewalk extensions and crosswalks. More improvements are needed, particularly on streets adjoining schools such as PS 41.

Sanitation

New Additions to the Neighborhood



In May, the Department of Sanitation replaced dozens of our district's worn, wire baskets with larger, cleaner cans, and expanded pick-up times, a result of \$70,000 I allocated in last year's budget. In this year's budget, I allocated \$103,921 for more baskets and additional pick-up times and street cleaning. After much

consultation with constituents, block associations and community boards, I worked hard to pinpoint the areas that were in need of new bins and increased service. You can read articles about this initiative in *The Villager* and *DNAinfo*.

Update on the Gansevoort Marine Transfer Station

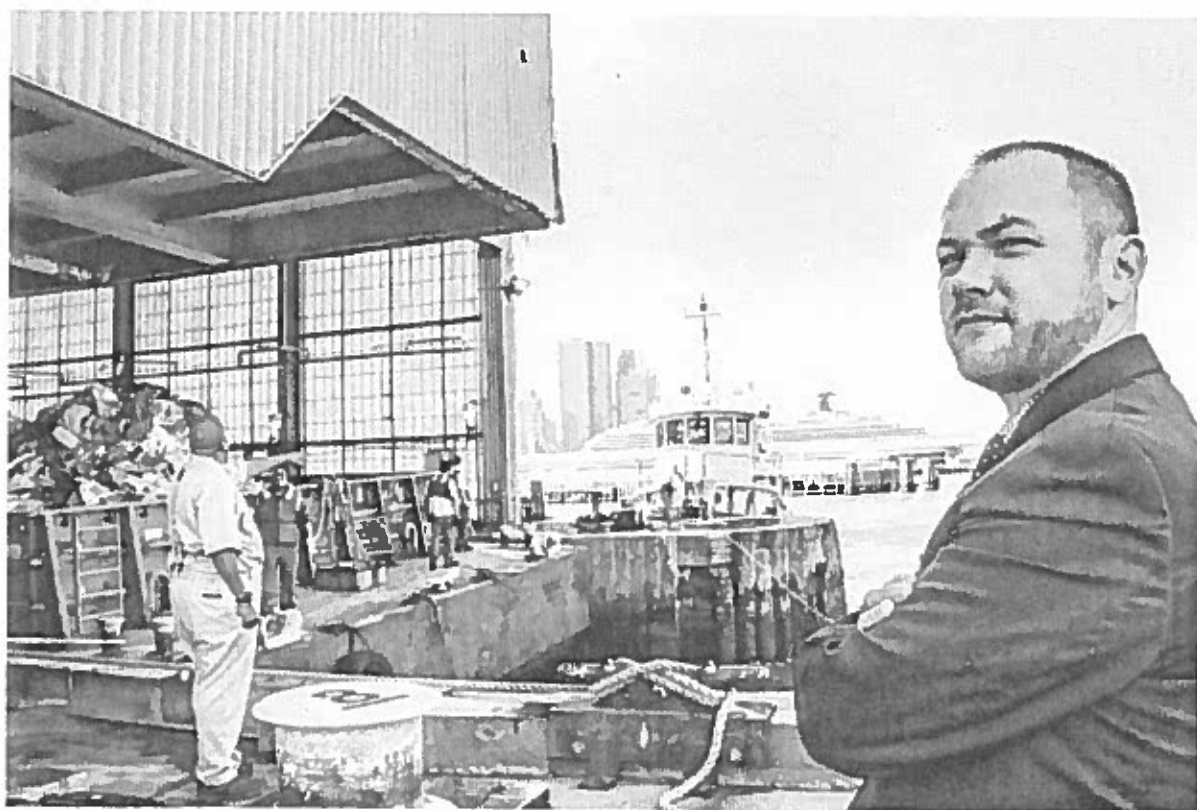
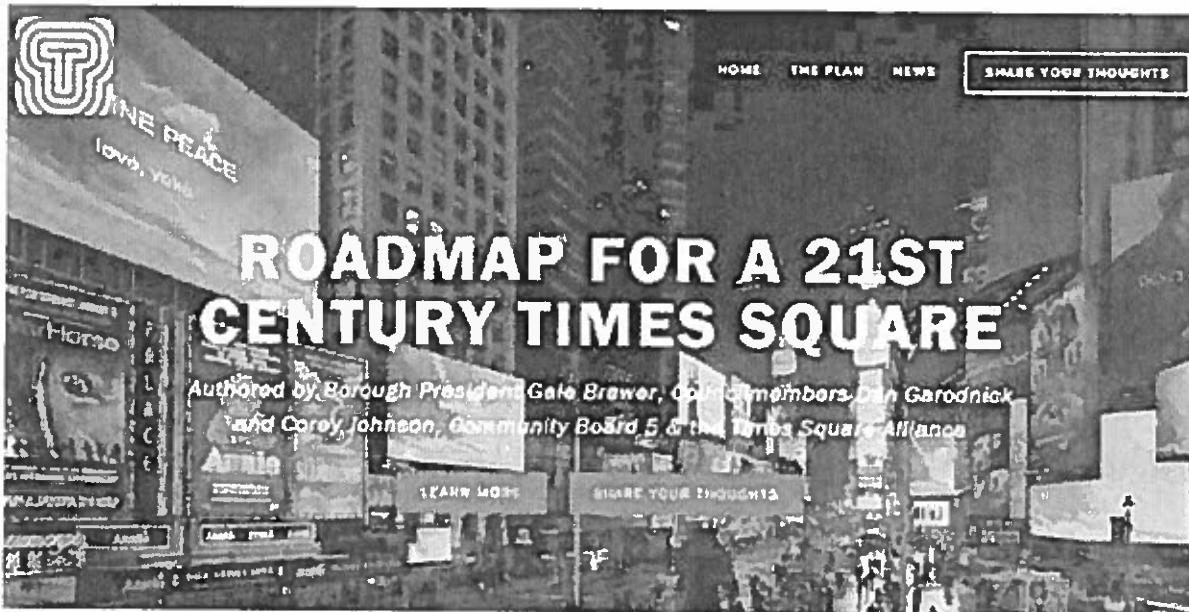


Photo credit: Tequila Minsky

In June, I toured the West 59th Street recycling transfer station, which is in many ways similar to the one we will see on the Gansevoort Peninsula. I look forward to working closely with the Department of Sanitation, my fellow elected officials and members of the West Village community to ensure that the City processes our recyclables responsibly while respecting the health, safety and quality of life of local residents and our environment.

Quality of Life

Roadmap for a 21st Century Times Square



On September 17, in conjunction with Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Dan Garodnick, Community Board Five and the Times Square Alliance, I released a plan entitled “Roadmap for a 21st Century Times Square.” Our proposal is a comprehensive approach to solving the challenges facing Times Square, which include aggressive solicitation, predatory behavior, and congestion. Details of the plan can be [found here](#).

[Click here](#) to watch a *Good Day New York* segment about the proposal featuring me, the Naked Cowboy and others.

Relocating EMS Station 7

Ever since I was Chair of Community Board 4, I have been pressing the City to select a more suitable permanent location for EMS Station 7, which is currently located under the High Line at West 23rd Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues. I have long maintained that the unenclosed emergency service station on a residential block is not properly located, and that this space will not be able to meet the growing needs of our community.

Community Effort to Close Greenhouse at 150 Varick Street

In March, my colleagues and I sent a letter to Chairman Dennis Rosen of the State Liquor Authority (SLA). Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, State Senator Brad Hoylman, Assembly Member Deborah Glick and I expressed that the establishment at 150 Varick Street, formerly known as Greenhouse, had a troubled history with the neighborhood and should not be permitted to reopen with a new liquor license. I was pleased that after much work on behalf of our community, the SLA denied this venue a liquor license.

Where's My FiOS?



The people of my district have an alarming lack of choice when it comes to their cable and internet service provider. Depending on their address, they must subscribe to either Time Warner Cable or Cablevision. This is an unacceptable situation – one that New York City sought to end in 2008 when it signed an agreement with Verizon that would make their fiber-optic service available citywide. Yet today, my constituents are still waiting for that promise to become a reality.

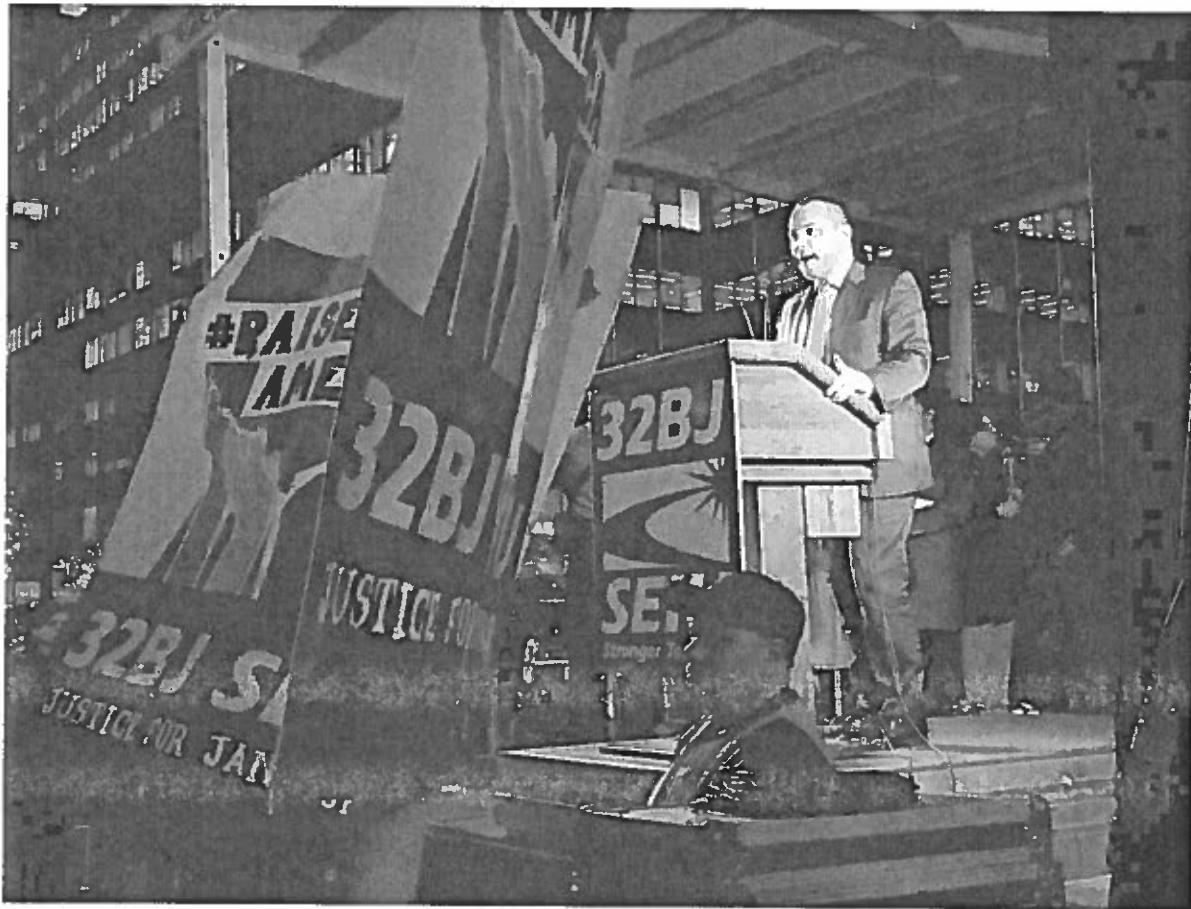
This year I called upon the New York State Public Service Commission to investigate Verizon's failure to live up to its commitment and issue a public report as to its findings. The people of my district need and deserve access to modern communications technology.

Labor

Victory! Fast Food Workers Get \$15 Minimum Wage

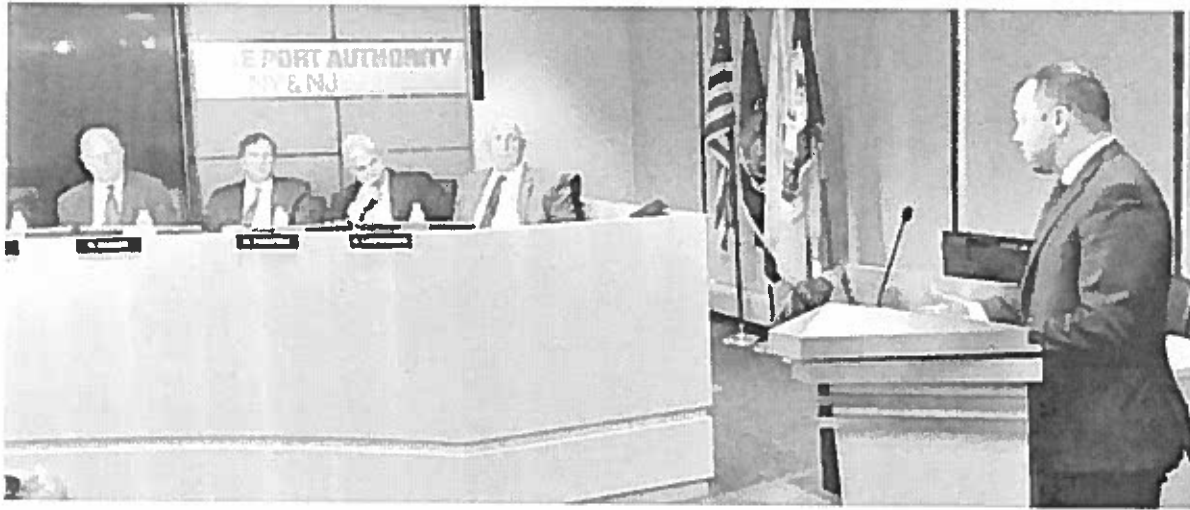
Fast food employees are like any other workers – they wake up every day to put food on the table for themselves and their families. Yet they are often paid so little, they cannot support an individual, let alone a family.

In June, I testified before the New York State Wage Board and asserted the need for higher wages. I applaud Governor Cuomo and the Wage Board for giving our State's 180,000 fast food workers a fighting chance to be raised out of poverty by approving a \$15 per hour minimum wage.



This year I joined 32BJ and stood with cleaners who lost their jobs after organizing for fair pay. I also called on the Realty Advisory Board to include fair wages and benefits as they renegotiate their contracts with their

building custodians. Photo by William Alatraste



In September I addressed the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Board of Commissioners at their monthly meeting. I advocated forcefully for a new wage and benefit package for airport workers, many of whom are full-time employees who earn only \$10.10 per hour. Raising their wages is the just and responsible thing to do.



Seniors

Every generation owes a great deal to the one that came before. The 2016 City Budget allocates nearly \$25 million to fund services for our seniors, including \$1.275 million to create new initiatives that will support healthy aging, \$3.5 million for all types of naturally occurring retirement communities, and \$1.5 million to assist Holocaust survivors living in poverty.

These accomplishments are a testament to the strong leadership of Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Margaret Chin, Chair of the Committee on Aging.

The Caring Majority

Starting next year, the Penn South Program for Seniors will partner with Caring Across Generations and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice on a new initiative to support elders, family caregivers, and direct care workers. It's called The Caring Majority.

The goal of the program is to bridge the needs of domestic employers and caregivers through quality training that ensures the dignity of seniors living at home and of paid caregivers who support them in living independently. I'm proud to have supported this important initiative.

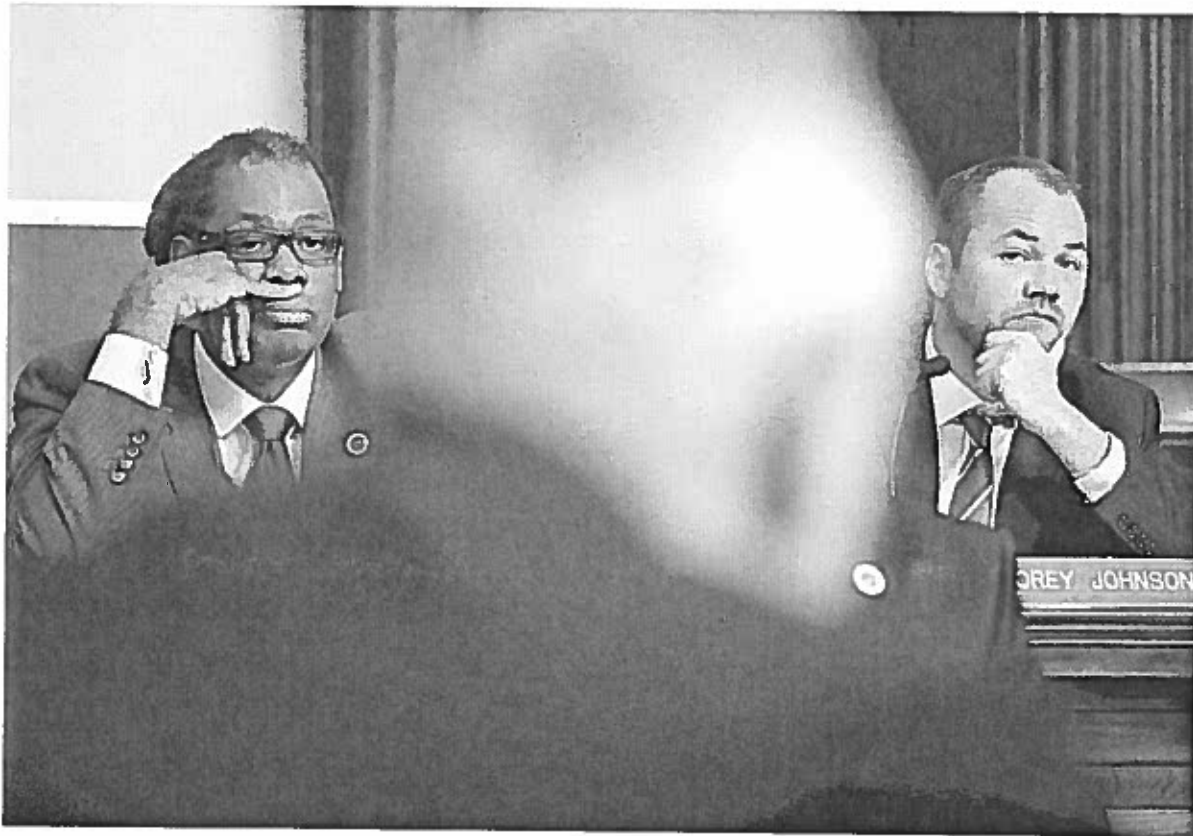
Medicare Open Enrollment Presentation

On November 9, my office teamed up with Medicare Rights Center to host a Medicare Enrollment Awareness Event at SAGE, where attendees learned about important changes to Medicare that will take place in 2016.



In June I participated in Community Board 2's Senior Action Day, which was cosponsored by CB2 and SAGE and hosted by the LGBT Center. Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and I are pictured here with Doris Diether, a great public servant who has served on Community Board 2 since 1964! Photo by William Alatrisme

Public Safety



Listening to testimony from NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton during a City Council Oversight Hearing of Police Training. Photo by William Alatrisme

Addressing Public Safety Concerns Near Penn Station

On November 9, one individual was killed and two were wounded in a drug-related shooting near Penn Station. Shortly thereafter, I convened a meeting of neighborhood stakeholders and my colleagues in government, including the NYPD, the office of District Attorney Cy Vance, Community Board Five, local business owners and several substance abuse treatment programs. It was a productive discussion that produced several 'next steps,' and we will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure neighborhood safety.

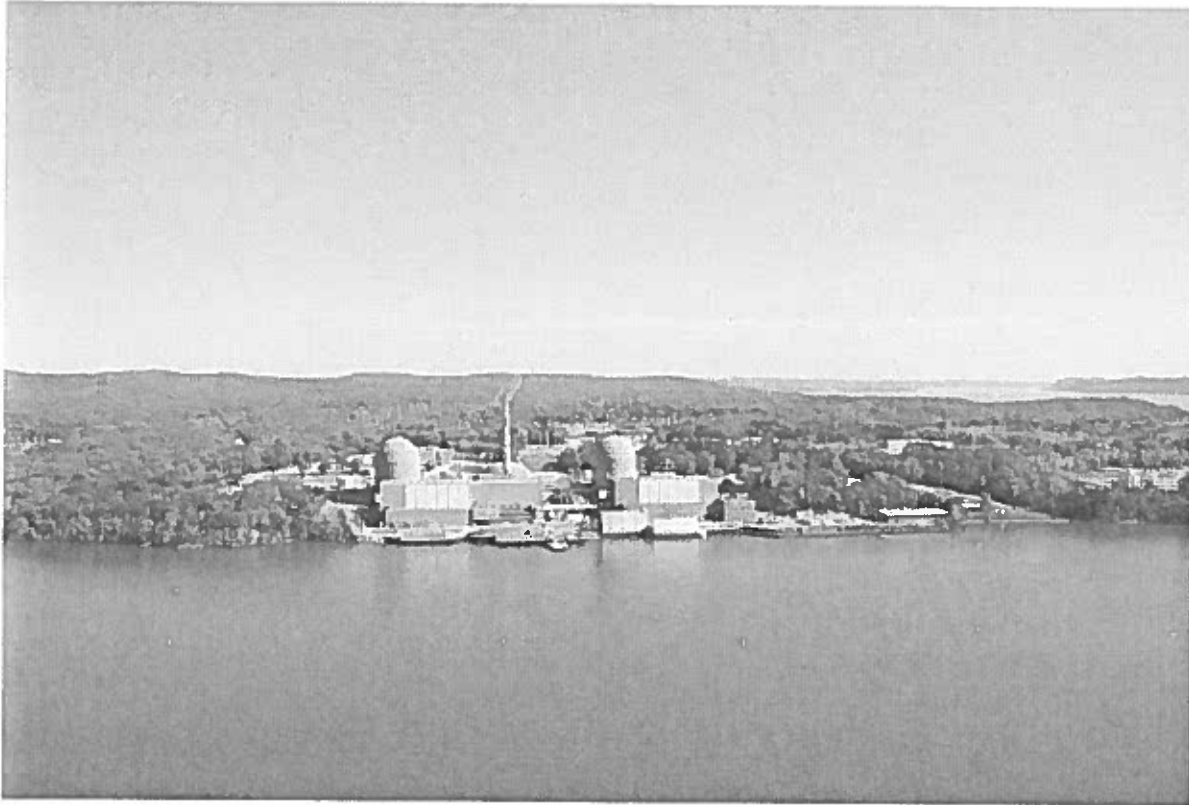
75th Anniversary of the Midtown North Precinct



On November 23, 1940, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia and Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine presided over the opening of the “New 18th Precinct Stationhouse,” which would later be known as the Midtown North Precinct. In November, I was honored to join the Midtown North Precinct for a ceremony on its 75th anniversary. This precinct has seen a lot over the past 75 years, and we are extremely fortunate to have Midtown North keeping us safe.

Environment

Shut Down Indian Point!



The Indian Point Energy Center, a nuclear power plant, is located just 25 miles north of New York City. I and many thousands of New Yorkers have long advocated for this plant to be shut down, as it poses an unacceptable threat to public safety and our environment.

I am a proud co-sponsor of Council Resolution 694, which calls on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission not to relicense Indian Point 2 and Indian Point 3, so that those reactors cease operations. I thank Council Member Donovan Richards for introducing this Resolution.

Victory! Port Ambrose Natural Gas Terminal Vetoed by Governor Cuomo

I am ecstatic that Governor Cuomo vetoed plans for the Port Ambrose Natural Gas terminal, which would have been built approximately 20 miles off of Long Island's

South Shore. This project would not only have increased demand for natural gas, which threatens our marine ecosystem, but it would also stand in the way of building an offshore wind farm in the same area.

I want to thank Governor Cuomo, my colleagues in government, and the many New Yorkers who played a role in this victory.

Reducing Plastic Bag Waste

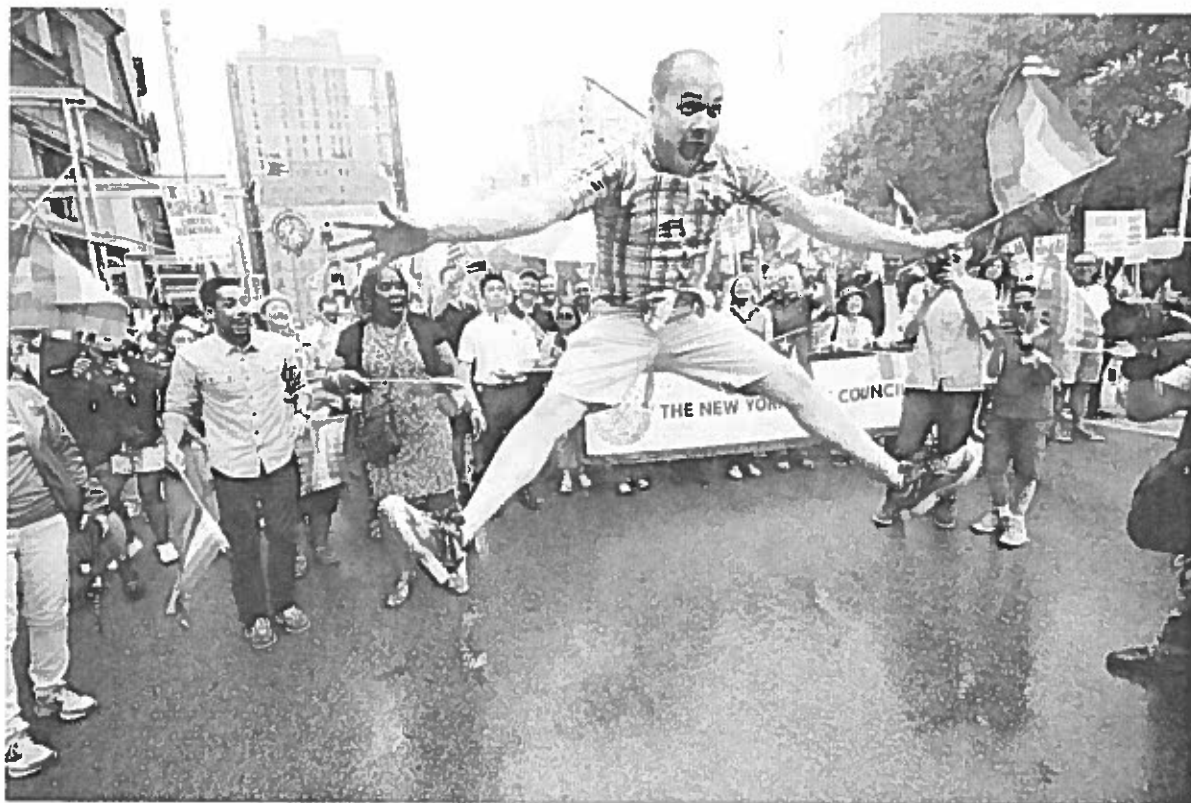
Long after we are gone from this Earth, discarded plastic bags will be floating in our oceans and littering our beaches. I am a proud co-sponsor of Council Member Margaret Chin's legislation that would greatly reduce plastic bag waste. This bill will help reduce the use of disposable carry out bags and encourage people to use paper or reusable bags.

LGBT

Needless to say, 2015 was a banner year for LGBT rights. The capstone was the Supreme Court's decision that made marriage equality the law of the land in all 50 states. The organizers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade announced that next year for the first time, an Irish LGBT group will march under its own banner at the parade. In October, Governor Cuomo issued an executive order granting new statewide anti-discrimination protections for transgender New Yorkers.

Unfortunately, we have also seen setbacks. The epidemic of violence against transgender women continued unabated in 2015, an urgent crisis that demands the attention of all Americans. In New York City, we continue to press ahead at full steam until hate crimes are brought to an end, bullying in our schools is a thing of the past,

and no New Yorker lives in fear of discrimination. Until then, we must keep pressing for change.



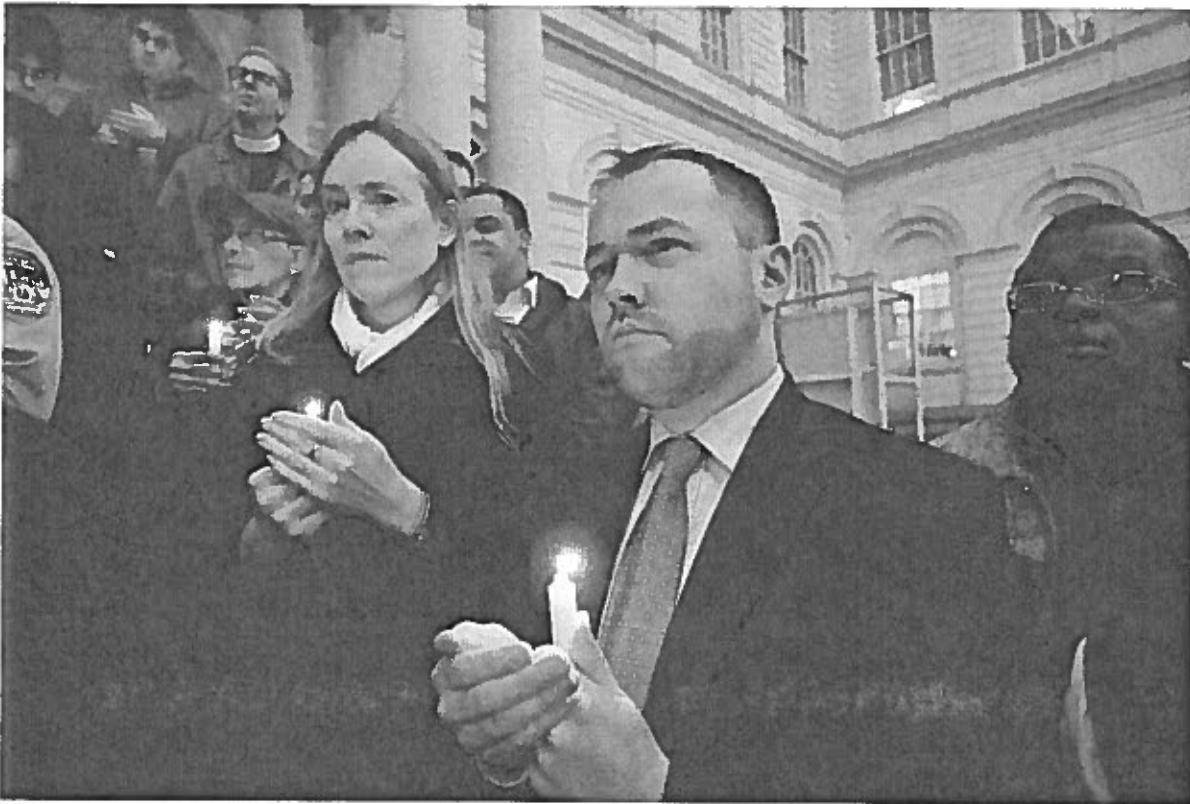
In June, millions of people gathered along Fifth Avenue and in the Village for the annual Heritage of Pride March. Photo by William Alatrisme



In February I attended the ribbon cutting for the new remodeled LGBT Community Center on 13th Street.

Update on Birth Certificate Legislation

In December, the City Council passed my legislation that makes it easier for transgender New Yorkers to correct the gender on their birth certificates. Since January, when the law took effect, over 320 people have taken advantage of this fairer, commonsense policy.

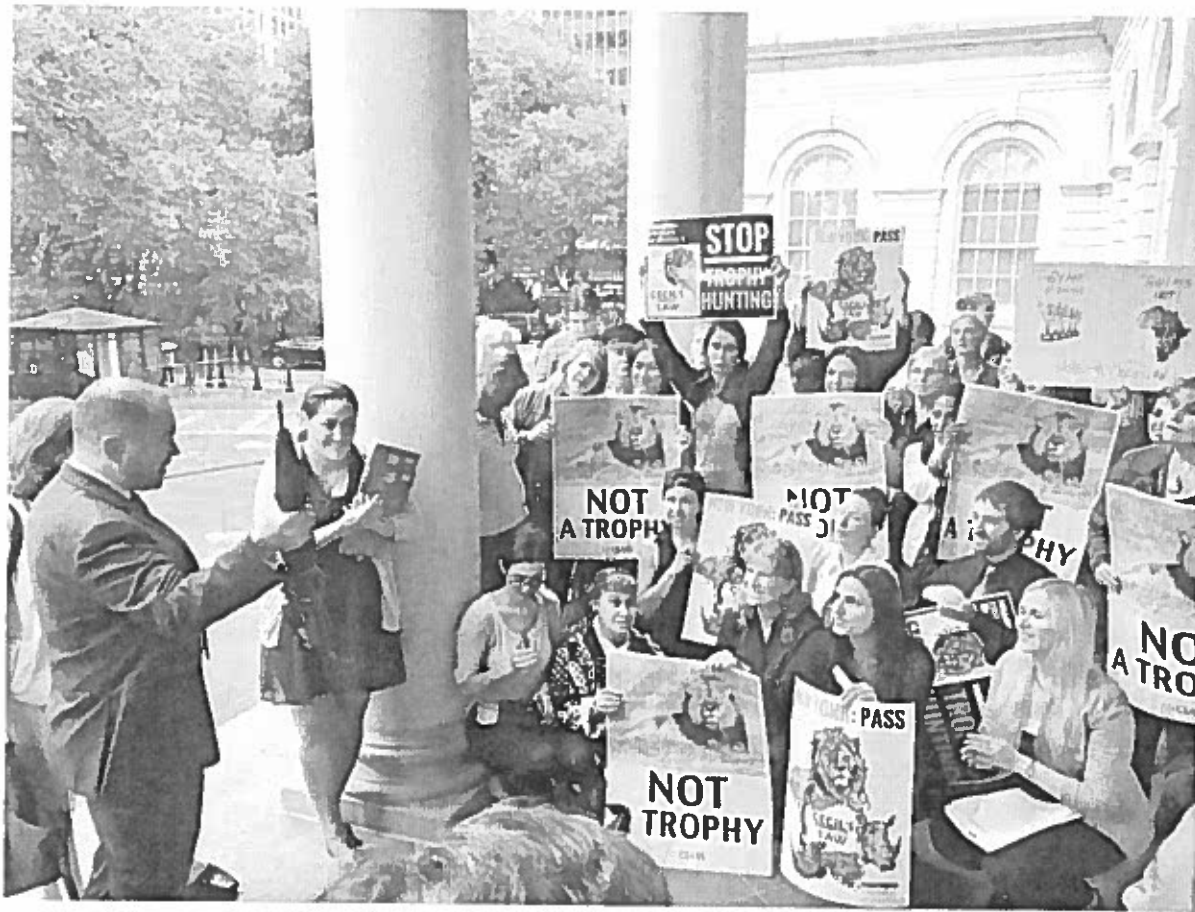


On November 20, the NYC Council's LGBT Caucus held a vigil on the steps of City Hall in recognition of Transgender Day of Remembrance. On this solemn occasion, we honor those lives that have been lost to transphobic violence, and renew our commitment to creating a society free from prejudice. We presented a Council Citation to Delores Nettles, the mother of Islan Nettles, a young woman whose life was taken in violence. By speaking out, Delores Nettles has inspired countless others with her strength and courage.



In July, I spoke at the groundbreaking for the Ali Forney Center's Bea Arthur Residence, which will provide services and housing for homeless gay and transgender youth when it opens at 222 East 13th Street next year.

Animal Rights



Addressing demonstrators who organized on the steps of City Hall to protest trophy hunting

Fighting for Full Service Animal Shelters Across New York City

On February 25, I chaired a Health Committee oversight hearing on Animal Care Centers. The focus of the hearing was Council Member Paul Vallone's bill, which I am co-sponsoring, that would mandate full service animal shelters for every borough in the City.



This year I adopted a cat, Mousse, from Animal Care Centers of New York! Bringing a rescue animal into my home has truly changed both of our lives for the better. I encourage everyone to rescue a cat or dog themselves! Visit www.nycacc.org for more information.

Historic Preservation



The vitality of the West Side is due precisely to the fact that we prevented the destruction of what makes our neighborhoods special and unique. As parks and public spaces help define a community, so do its streetscapes and architecture. That is why Council Member Margaret Chin and I are strongly advocating for an expansion of the South Village Historic District.



Testifying before the Landmarks Preservation Commission

We fought a number of battles in 2015. This year I came out in strong opposition to Intro 775, a bill that would establish a maximum period of time for the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to take action on any item calendared for consideration of landmark status.

I also strongly opposed the proposed development at 46-74 Gansevoort Street. My colleagues and I wrote a letter to the LPC that outlined our concerns that an over-sized development would transform a historic block that embodies the character of the Gansevoort Market District into a shadowed block of out-of-scale buildings. I look forward to the LPC's decision, which I hope will support the community's unanimous position.

[Click here to read the letter we sent to the Landmarks Preservation Commission opposing this project.](#)

Landmark Designation for the Stonewall Inn



On September 30, the City Council voted unanimously to approve landmark status for the Stonewall Inn. I am so pleased that this historic structure is now protected, so that

it may be seen first-hand by future generations.

In addition, I have been advocating for the creation of the nation's first national monument that specifically honors the LGBT rights movement. As part of this effort, the City Council LGBT Caucus wrote a letter to President Barack Obama, asking him to declare a national monument on this site. I would like to thank Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Community Board 2, and the National Parks Conservation Association for their leadership on this issue.

Expanding the Special West Chelsea District

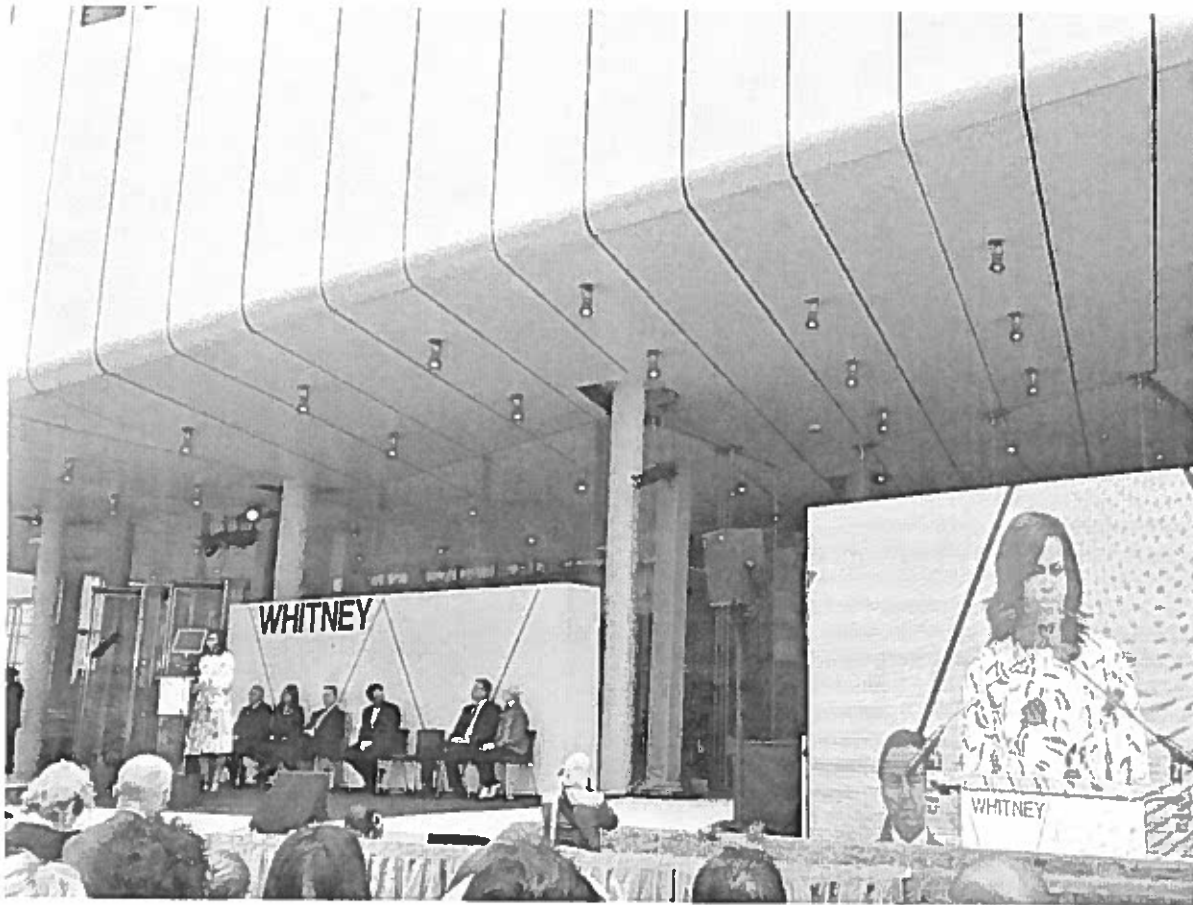
On January 22, the City Council voted to expand the Special West Chelsea District to the south side of West 15th Street. This will help protect the low-rise character of the blocks south of the Chelsea Market, spur mixed-use development, and preserve the integrity of West Chelsea's commercially zoned properties.

The Arts

District 3 is home to the highest concentration of theaters in the world. We are also blessed to have many incredible arts programs that serve our schools, our seniors, and the community at large.

But our great arts non-profits cannot do it alone. That's why it is so important that city, state, and federal governments continue to support the non-profit art sector so that it may continue to thrive. Through discretionary funding and allocating money for capital improvements, I'm proud to have helped many great arts organizations in Council District 3 realize their mission.

Welcoming the Whitney to the West Side



First Lady Michelle Obama speaking at the Whitney Museum ribbon cutting event.

On April 30, I was honored to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Whitney Museum of American Art and welcome this extraordinary institution into Council District 3. At this exceptional event, we had the privilege of hearing from First Lady Michelle Obama.

In addition to bringing us world-class art exhibitions, the Whitney promises to enhance our cultural vitality as an integrated member of our community.

Small Businesses